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FM NPIC

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PRIORITY 1

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APPROPRIATE TCOS. CITE NPIC 1555. THE FOLLOWING IS FROM THE NATIONAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER.

REFERENCE: USAFLT LETTER Z-2670

1. THE CURRENT NPIC TOTALS OF MRBM LAUNCH AREAS ARE 137
SOFT AND 21 HARD DEPLOYED AT 69 COMPLEXES. EACH OF THE 21 HARD
LAUNCH AREAS IS ASSOCIATED WITH AN MRBM COMPLEX HAVING ONE OR TWO
SOFT LAUNCH AREAS. OF THE REMAINING 48 MRBM COMPLEXES, 36 CONTAIN
TWO SOFT LAUNCH AREAS, 6 CONSIST OF ONE SOFT LAUNCH AREA, AND 6
HAVE THREE SOFT LAUNCH AREAS. THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO
RECENT PHOTOGRAPHIC INDICATION OF NEW HARD MRBM SITE CONSTRUCTION
AT ANY OF THE EXISTING COMPLEXES CONTAINING TWO SOFT LAUNCH AREAS
MAY INDICATE THAT A HARD MRBM LAUNCH AREA WILL NOT BE ADDED TO THESE
COMPLEXES. AN ANALYSIS OF ALL AVAILABLE GOOD QUALITY PHOTOGRAPHY
COVERING HARD MRBM LAUNCH AREAS PERMITS THE POSITIVE IDENTIFICA-
TION OF TWO LAUNCH SILO POSITIONS. INCONSISTENCIES IN THE
APPEARANCE OF THE TWO REMAINING POSITIONS PRECLUDES THEIR EXACT
IDENTIFICATION. IT IS FELT THAT ONE OF THESE IS ALSO A SILO BUT

HFS

CJS

~~GFC~~~~PMS~~~~AGL~~

Grace (File)

TOP SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

ITS FUNCTION IS UNDETERMINED. THE FOURTH POSITION APPEARS MORE LIKE A SURFACE STRUCTURE. TO DATE NO NUCLEAR WARHEAD FACILITY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN A HARD MRBM LAUNCH AREA.

2. THE CURRENT NPIC TOTALS FOR IRBM LAUNCH AREAS ARE 14 SOFT AND 20 HARD DEPLOYED AT 13 COMPLEXES. FIVE IRBM COMPLEXES CONTAIN A MIXTURE OF SOFT AND HARD LAUNCH AREAS, 2 COMPLEXES HAVE 3 SOFT LAUNCH AREAS, 2 COMPLEXES ARE COMPOSED OF A SINGLE SOFT LAUNCH AREA, 3 COMPLEXES CONTAIN 3 HARD LAUNCH AREAS AND ONE COMPLEX CONSISTS OF TWO HARD LAUNCH AREAS. BASED ON PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE TO DATE ALL COMPLETED HARD IRBM COMPLEXES CONTAIN THREE LAUNCH AREAS.

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A REVIEW OF ALL THE HARD IRBM LAUNCH

AREAS LEADS TO THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS. THE HARD IRBM LAUNCH SITES COMPRISE TWO LAUNCH SILOS AND A THIRD SILO. BECAUSE OF INCONSISTENCIES IN THE APPEARANCE OF THE THIRD SILO POSITION ITS FUNCTION CANNOT BE DETERMINED.

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3. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ORIENTATION OF SOFT AND HARD IRBM LAUNCH AREAS AND PERSPECTIVE TARGETS IS NOT UNDERSTOOD WELL ENOUGH TO ALLOW DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS TO BE REACHED ON REASONS FOR PARTICULAR LAUNCH AREA LOCATIONS.

T O P S E C R E T

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END OF MESSAGE

(ABOVE MESSAGE ALSO PASSED TO

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